

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 /039 W

-----231456Z 056395 /53

P R 231400Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7749

USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USLO RIYADH

UNCLAS JIDDA 2261

ATHENS FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, NI, SA, SU, XF

SUBJ: IOWA STATE IOGA TRADE MISSION

1. WASHINGTON'S ATTENTION SHOULD FOCUS ON THIS EVENT NOW TO ENSURE PROBABLE SUCCESS AND AVERT POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT AND/OR FAILURE.

WITH DUE CONSIDERATION TO IOWA ORGANIZERS WHOSE EFFORTS ARE NOT UNDERESTIMATED, THE EMBASSY NOTES FOLLOWING UNRESOLVED FACTORS WHICH EMERGED DURING ADVANCE OFFICER'S JIDDA VISIT:

(1) GOVERNOR RAY'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE AND THE DEFINITIVENESS OF HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA REQUIRES COORDINATION AND CONFIRMATION BY WASHINGTON AGENCIES. DOES GOVERNOR HAVE PLANS TO MEET WITH SPECIFIC PEOPLE HERE OR SHALL WE FIX HIS ENTIRE SCHEDULE? SUGGEST UTILITY OF FULL STATE/COMMERCE BRIEFING OF GOVERNOR ON MATTERS OF IMPORT HERE,  
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INCLUDING BOYCOTT. SAUDI CONTACTS WILL ASSUME GOVERNOR RAY WILL BE CONVERSANT ON USG CONCERNS AND PLANS ON BOYCOTT ISSUE. BELIEVE GOVERNOR RAY WILL DESIRE BRIEFING BECAUSE OF RECENT VISIT BY TWO SAUDIS (ONE, UN-NAMED, HEADS BUSINESS FACULTY OF RIYADH UNIVERSITY) WHO ARE PART OF VIPI:IPB  
(B) STATE/COMMERCE BRIEFING OF TRADE MISSION

MEMBERS SHOULD TAKE PLACE. AO SAID NONE WAS PLANNED. EMBASSY URGES WASHINGTON CONSIDER INDIVIDUAL BRIEFINGS OF MEMBERS EITHER BY TELEPHONE OR IN IOWA IF GROUP VISIT TO WASHINGTON IMPOSSIBLE. MEMBERS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE NEVER TRAVELED ABROAD, SHOULD NOT BE SENT UNPREPARED TO HOST COUNTRIES. THE OBVIOUS SHOULD BE STRESSED, E.G. SENSITIVITY TO CAMERAS AND PHOTOGRAPHS, MEALS WILL BE HEAVY AND RICE-BASED, INFORM MEMBERS OF REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE. BASIC OBR'S, ET REPORT, ETC., SHOULD BE GIVEN MEMBERS. COST OF TRADE MISSION SHOULD BE EXPLAINED TO ANY SKEPTICAL MISSION MEMBERS IN TERMS OF HIGH-STAKE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN SAUDI ARABIA.

(C) ADVANCE OFFICER SAID ONE MISSION MEMBER (WEIDEMANN) HAS RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO TRAVELING OR DOING BUSINESS ON SATURDAYS. SINCE THIS CONDITION APPEARS IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET, WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE DETERMINED SOONER, NOT LATER, WHETHER THIS INDIVIDUAL WILL COME OR DROP OUT. IF LATTER, HOTEL RESERVATIONS WILL NEED ADJUSTMENT.

(D) KENYAN CITIZEN REPRESENTS TWO FIRMS ON IOWA MISSION. PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATES POTENTIAL VISA OR OTHER PROBLEMS IN SOME COUNTRIES FOR NON-US MEMBERS OF MISSIONS. WASHINGTON SHOULD URGE THAT THIS MEMBER AND ALL OTHERS OBTAIN ALL VISAS, PARTICULARLY FOR SAUDI ARABIA, PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM US.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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